Abstract

A module and unified network backplane interface for a local network, which includes a circuit board; a plurality of sockets on the circuit board for receiving plug-in network devices; power lines on the circuit board to one or more sockets for powering a plug-in network device in each socket; communication lines on the circuit board to each socket for communication between plug-in network devices; and a housing for the circuit board, power lines and communication lines, including openings for exposing said sockets. The backplane also have a central embedded platform-independent configuration utility accessible via a web browser to configure all plug-in devices in one session.